

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00131 01 OF 03 191626Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 AID-01 NSC-06 EUR-08 ISO-00 NEA-07
/041 W

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R 191434Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 048

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 DUBLIN 0131

FOR AMBASSADOR JOHN WEST FROM CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (ZABLOCKI, CLEMENT J)
SUBJECT: CODEL ZABLOCKI

I AM SENDING THIS CABLE AFTER A DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN ADEN WITH SECRETARY VANCE ON JANUARY 17. OUR DISCUSSION OCCURRED IN JERUSALEM, THE DAY AFTER MY RETURN FROM ADEN. I DO SO HOPING YOU WILL SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CROWN PRINCE FAHD. SECRETARY VANCE SAID HE EXPECTS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD VERY SOON CONCERNING ADEN.

YOU WILL RECALL THAT WHEN OUR CONGRESSIONAL GROUP MET JANUARY 9 WITH THE CROWN PRINCE, HE SAID HE CONSIDERED MY FORTHCOMING TRIP TO ADEN USEFUL SO THAT I COULD APPRAISE THE SITUATION. THE CROWN PRINCE ALSO SAID PERHAPS DURING MY VISIT I WOULD BE ABLE TO DETERMINE ADEN'S INTEREST IN ACCEPTING AID FROM SAUDI ARABIA ON TERMS THE CROWN PRINCE HAD OUTLINED TO ME.

THE CROWN PRINCE ALSO STATED THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO A UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN ADEN.

FROM THESE COMMENTS, I FEEL THE CROWN PRINCE WILL BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THIS REPORT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00131 01 OF 03 191626Z

MY PRINCIPAL INTERVIEW WAS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF DEMOCRATIC YEMEN, SALIM RUBYAI ALI ON SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 15 IN THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE IN ADEN. WITH PRESIDENT ALI WERE ABDULLA ASHTAL, HIS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND AL-KHADER HAMZEH, DEPUTY-DESIGNATE TO AMBASSADOR ASHTAL. THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WERE IN DAMASCUS AT THE

TIME.

I REPORTED IN DETAIL COMMENTS THE CROWN PRINCE HAD MADE TO ME CONCERNING MY MISSION TO ADEN, TOGETHER WITH COMMENTS BY MINISTER YAMANI, WHO HAD EMPHASIZED THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PROMPT ESTABLISHMENT OF A U.S. MISSION IN ADEN.

I ALSO GAVE PRESIDENT ALI A DETAILED REPORT ON A LENGTHY DISCUSSION I HAD JANUARY 5 IN DAMASCUS WITH YASIR ARAFAT.

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF WHAT PRESIDENT ALI SAID:

"WE ARE VERY GLAD YOU CAME TO DEMOCRATIC YEMEN TO CONTINUE OUR CONTACTS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES. YOUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN FRUITFUL. ONE RESULT WAS THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTER MOTIE AND SECRETARY VANCE IN NEW YORK LAST YEAR. WE BELIEVE A NUMBER OF STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE DIRECTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND CERTAINLY YOU HAVE HAD A PART IN THEM.

"I THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION ON YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD, MINISTER YAMANI AND MR. ARAFAT. THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ALL ARABS. ALL ARAB STATES HAVE TO MAKE A CERTAIN CONTRIBUTION.

THIS IS REQUIRED BY THE SACRIFICE THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00131 01 OF 03 191626Z

MADE. SOME MIGHT ASK WHAT SACRIFICE HAS BEEN MADE BY DEMOCRATIC YEMEN IN THIS REGARD. OUR COUNTRY IS POOR AND SMALL. IF OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THIS EFFECT IS MAGNIFIED IN THE CASE OF A SMALL AND POOR COUNTRY LIKE OURS. THE VERY FACT THAT THE SUEZ CANAL WAS CLOSED FOR EIGHT YEARS HAD SERIOUS EFFECT ON US. THE NUMBER OF SHIPS USING ADEN WAS REDUCED BY 90 PERCENT. YEMEN LOST 90 PERCENT OF ITS REVENUES DURING THIS PERIOD. THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS IS THE DIFFICULTY AND HARDSHIP FACED BY PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. DEMOCRATIC YEMEN IS A PART OF THE ARAB WORLD AND IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE -- THIS COMMITMENT HAS ALMOST A SPIRITUAL NATURE."

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00131 02 OF 03 191633Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 AID-01 NSC-06 EUR-08 ISO-00 NEA-07
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 049

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 DUBLIN 0131

"WE ARE ALL INVOLVED IN HELPING AND ASSISTING PALESTINIANS TO REGAIN THEIR RIGHTS. ALL ARABS MUST HAVE A PART IN THE SOLUTION. VERY FRANKLY, THE UNILATERAL ROAD TO A SETTLEMENT IS OPPOSED BY ALL ARAB PEOPLE AND COUNTRIES, EVEN BY THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE THREE ARAB COUNTRIES WHOSE GOVERNMENTS ARE PUBLICLY SUPPORTING PRESIDENT SADAT.

"THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WILL NOT BE SOLVED UNLESS THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS TAKEN CARE OF.

"CROWN PRINCE FAHD IS MY PERSONAL FRIEND. HE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. WE EXCHANGE LETTERS. AS YOU SAID, MY MINISTER WAS IN RIYADH TO SEE HIM A FEW DAYS AGO. WE ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT. WE TRY TO SYNCHRONIZE OUR POLICIES AND ACTIONS. WE SOLVE PROBLEMS AND REMOVE OBSTACLES WHICH MIGHT IMPEDE SMOOTH RELATIONS. HE FOLLOWS THIS COURSE. I DO THE SAME.

"CERTAIN ELEMENTS OPPOSE THESE RELATIONS. SEVERAL BORDER INCIDENTS HAVE HAPPENED, BUT ALL HAVE BEEN SETTLED AMICABLY. THE LAST SUCH INCIDENT WAS LAST NOVEMBER. I DULY INFORMED CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND WE SOLVED THE PROBLEM.

"THE SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC YEMEN IS MUCH BETTER THAN WHEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00131 02 OF 03 191633Z

YOU WERE HERE FOUR YEARS AGO. THE OFFICIALS IN SAUDI ARABIA KNOW THAT NO FOREIGN NATION HAS A MILITARY BASE IN SOUTH YEMEN, BUT WE OFFER CERTAIN NAVAL FACILITIES TO THE SOVIET UNION. WE HAVE HAD LONG RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, AND WE EXPLAINED THIS TO SAUDI ARABIA. THE SOVIETS STOOD ON OUR SIDE IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY, SO WE WILL MAINTAIN THIS RELATIONSHIP. WE HAVE INFORMED SAUDI ARABIA OF THIS SITUATION, AND DID SO WHEN THE SOVIETS WERE OUSTED FROM

SOMALIA AND WISHED TO MOVE CERTAIN EQUIPMENT TO ADEN. THIS IS NO SECRET, AND WE FULLY INFORMED THE CROWN PRINCE OF THE SITUATION AS TO THE NATURE OF THE SOVIET PRESENCE. IT IS NOT A MILITARY BASE. IN FACT A YEAR AGO WE INFORMED ALL NATIONS OF THE GULF AREA THAT WE FELT THE ENTIRE GULF AREA SHOULD BE FREE OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES. WE ASKED THAT A COMMON POLICY AGAINST FOREIGN MILITARY BASES BE ESTABLISHED, AND WE HOPE THIS WILL MATERIALIZE, SO THAT NO NATION WILL HAVE A FOREIGN MILITARY BASE ON ITS SOIL IN THE FUTURE.

"I JUST MENTIONED THAT WHEN WE HAD SEVERE PROBLEMS 10 YEARS AGO, THE SOVIET UNION OFFERED MEASURES OF ASSISTANCE. WE ACCEPTED THIS HELP AND APPRECIATED IT. AND THAT IS WHY WE ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE CERTAIN FACILITIES, BUT THESE SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A MILITARY BASE. THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED."

"AS TO OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THEM ALL. WE KEEP TALKING, COORDINATING.

"CROWN PRINCE FAHD KNOWS BETTER THAN OTHERS IN SAUDI ARABIA THE TRUE SITUATION IN OUR COUNTRY. I WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH HIM IN OVERCOMING ANY PROBLEMS WE MAY FACE INDIVIDUALLY OR TOGETHER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00131 02 OF 03 191633Z

"I KNOW OF NO PROBLEM WHATEVER THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND OUR GOVERNMENT. WE ARE AWAITING THE DELEGATION SUPPOSED TO COME IN JANUARY FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

"IN REGARD TO OUR ARAB NEIGHBORS, THE POSITIONS AND SITUATIONS HAVE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER. WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO PEACEFUL RELATIONS.

"PRESIDENT CARTER WILL BE WELCOME TO VISIT OUR COUNTRY AT ANY TIME.

"WE MUST LIVE TOGETHER IN FRIENDSHIP.

"PLEASE EXTEND MY WARMEST GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT CARTER. KINDLY INFORM HIM WE ARE EAGER TO MAINTAIN SMOOTH AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC YEMEN AND THE UNITED STATES."

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00131 03 OF 03 191639Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 DUBLIN 0131

"WE RECOGNIZE THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING FRIENDLY
RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. WE FEEL THAT IS A POSITIVE
POLICY. WE BELIEVE OUR RELATIONS SHOULD BE FURTHER
STRENGTHENED."

THAT ENDS THE SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT ALI'S COMMENTS.

HE WAS CLEARLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ARRIVAL OF A STATE DEPART-
MENT DELEGATION TO CONSIDER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND EXPECTED
THE ARRIVAL TO OCCUR YET THIS MONTH.

HE CONSIDERS THAT HIS COUNTRY IS ENJOYING GOOD RELATIONS WITH
SAUDI ARABIA AND WITH ALL OF ITS CLOSE NEIGHBORS.

WHILE HE DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY ON THE QUESTION OF ACCEPTING
ASSISTANCE FROM SAUDI ARABIA ON THE TERMS MENTIONED BY CROWN
PRINCE FAHD, HE SPOKE OF THE CROWN PRINCE IN WORDS OF GREAT
CORDIALITY AND APPRECIATION. PRESIDENT ALI SAID HE WILL
CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD IN OVERCOMING
ANY PROBLEMS THE COUNTRIES MAY FACE INDIVIDUALLY OR TOGETHER,
AND I TOOK THIS TO BE A WARM AND AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO THE
TERMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM SAUDI ARABIA THAT CROWN
PRINCE FAHD HAD OUTLINED TO ME AND THAT I HAD REPORTED IN
DETAIL TO PRESIDENT ALI. ALTHOUGH A STENOGRAPHER WAS TAKING
NOTES ON THE DISCUSSION, I OBSERVED THAT PRESIDENT ALI HIMSELF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00131 03 OF 03 191639Z

WAS ALSO TAKING SOME NOTES.

IN REGARD TO THE SOVIET PRESENCE, I OBSERVED THREE SOVIET MILITARY VESSELS IN THE HARBOR, ONE A DESTROYER AND THE OTHERS SERVICE VESSELS. THE ONLY AIRCRAFT WITH USSR MARKINGS WAS AN OLD SMALL BI-WING TRANSPORT.

PRESIDENT ALI'S DENIAL THAT DEMOCRATIC YEMEN HAS PROVIDED THE SOVIET UNION WITH A MILITARY BASE WAS STRONG AND REPEATED, BUT HE DID NOT CLARIFY THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN A MILITARY BASE AND A FACILITY.

I LEFT ADEN MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT A U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION WILL SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALL OF OUR FRIENDS, ESPECIALLY THE INTERESTS OF SAUDI ARABIA.

THE UNITED STATES AND SAUDI ARABIA HAVE A COMMON INTEREST IN PURSUING POLICIES THAT WILL KEEP AT A MINIMUM SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN DEMOCRATIC YEMEN. WE BOTH DESIRE TO KEEP THAT COUNTRY FROM BECOMING A SOVIET SATELLITE OR BASE FOR SOVIET OPERATIONS IN THE GULF AND RED SEA AREAS.

WE BOTH NEED A DIPLOMATIC MISSION THERE THROUGH WHICH WE CAN COMMUNICATE INFORMATION. TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE, AND THE MORE THAT DEMOCRATIC YEMEN CAN LOOK TO THE NON-SOVIET WORLD FOR COOPERATION THE BETTER FOR US ALL.

EVEN IF DEMOCRATIC YEMEN DID NOT HAVE THE REASONABLE AND MODERATE LEADERSHIP CROWN PRINCE FAHD MENTIONED, A STRONG CASE COULD BE MADE FOR A U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN ADEN. AS IT IS, DEMOCRATIC YEMEN HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL OF ITS CLOSE NEIGHBORS, IS BROADENING ITS DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS ABROAD AND HAS NO UNSETTLED PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00131 03 OF 03 191639Z

FINALLY, DEMOCRATIC YEMEN IS NOW AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF A STATE DEPARTMENT DELEGATION TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND THE DELEGATION IS EXPECTED BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY. A DECISION BY THE UNITED STATES TO DELAY OR CANCEL THIS ARRIVAL WOULD BE BEWILDERING TO PRESIDENT ALI, TO SAY THE LEAST.

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION, AND PLEASE CONVEY TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD MY APPRECIATION FOR HIS COOPERATION, CONSIDERATION AND HOSPITALITY. I EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT, AS I HAVE IN THE PAST, THE REQUESTS OF SAUDI ARABIA FOR U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SHANNON

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